

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for determining the prognosis of an HIV infected individual, comprising the steps of:

measuring the level of one or more prognostic marker selected from the group consisting of anti-tat antibodies, tat protein, and p24 protein, in the serum of an HIV infected individual; and

comparing the measured level of the prognostic marker with levels of the prognostic marker indicative of disease progression or non-progression to determine prognosis of the HIV infected individual.

2. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said measuring step measures the level of anti-tat antibodies and/or tat protein.

3. The method in accordance with claim 2, wherein said measuring step is performed after administering a tat vaccine to the HIV infected individual.

4. A method for treating an HIV infected individual, comprising the steps of:

measuring the level of anti-tat antibodies or tat protein in an HIV infected individual over time;

determining whether the level of anti-tat antibodies has decreased sufficiently or the level of tat protein has increased sufficiently to warrant administration of a tat vaccine; and

administering a tat vaccine to the HIV-1 infected individual when warranted to bring up the level of anti-tat antibodies.

5. A method for evaluating the immune response of a non-infected individual as a result of immunization with a tat vaccine, comprising the steps of:

measuring the level of anti-tat antibodies or tat protein in the serum of a non-infected individual before immunization with a tat vaccine;

administering a tat vaccine to immunize the individual; and

measuring the level of anti-tat antibodies in the serum of the individual to determine the individual's humoral immune response to tat protein after immunization.

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